

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the claims have been amended to better define the invention. Support for the amendment may be found, for example, in Fig. 6 and on page 14 of the specification.

Claims 1 and 4-20 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph, regarding the written description requirement for the feature "converted by a processor of the telecommunication service before being completed." The claims have been amended to better define the invention. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1 and 4-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,537,464). Applicants respectfully traverse.

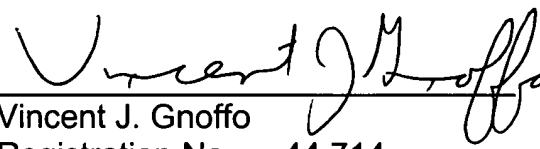
Lewis et al. discloses means for assembling and signaling billing information and caller-dialed-number information to a service provider in the voice channel during call setup to connecting carriers. The service provider is able to utilize the billing information and the caller-dialed-number information for making the decision to deny a call requesting the service information. This enables the service provider to limit services to only those callers for whom service fees can be charged to the caller's telephone bill. A local exchange performs digit analysis and translation before routing the call to the service provider. A local exchange carrier may translate a caller-dialed 7-digit 555 number into a ten-digit phantom number and then passes the call to the appropriate carrier assigned the ten-digit routing plan. It is determined whether an automatic number identification number is received during the process and, if so, call processing continues; if not, the call is blocked or terminated with an appropriate message.

Lewis et al. neither discloses nor suggest converting a number to a network address. Claim 1 as amended recites a first record which provides a directive that only certain calls are to be completed and "a call to the first NXX number not having an associated automatic number identification is not to be completed, wherein the first NXX number is converted to a network address by a processor of the

telecommunication service before the directive is provided". Claim 5 as amended recites "converting the first NXX call to a network address" and "inhibiting completion of the first NXX call to the first number when the first number does not receive calls that do not have an associated automatic number identification". Claim 15 as amended recites a "processor to convert the first number and the second number to a network address" and "to inhibit the completion of the first NXX call to the first number because a call to the first number not having an associated automatic number identification is not to be completed". Since Lewis et al. neither discloses nor suggests such features, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

For all of the above reasons, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the present application. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4224 if there are any outstanding issues that could be resolved through a telephone conference.

Respectfully submitted,


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